

AMENDMENT NO. 5646

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5646 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 4962. A bill to establish within the Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment of the United States Agency for International Development a rural mobility program to promote mobility in rural communities through access to affordable, fit-for-purpose bicycles, to provide support to sustainably increase access to rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to do something unusual on the floor of the Senate. I would like to report some good news. It isn't often we have these reports. Today, I have three items in my news that I would like to share with the people who are following this. I would like to start my remarks by sharing an incredible story from the other side of the world.

In May 2020, as the world was reeling from the spread of the deadly new strain of the coronavirus, the Red Cross society in the African nation of Kenya received 500 bicycles from a Chicago-based, nongovernmental organization known as World Bicycle Relief. Community healthworkers used these bicycles to make house visits across southern Kenya, providing health services to remote communities that would otherwise not be reached because of restrictions on movement due to COVID-19.

In Malawi, young girls used these bicycles to get safely to and from school, and when COVID-19 closed the schools down, girls like 17-year-old Elizabeth were able to shift focus to help their parents, who are farmers, weather the economic effects of the pandemic. She used her bicycle to take their produce to market.

Stories like these are common around the world, showing the value of a simple, relatively inexpensive, green, and easy-to-repair means of mobility—a bicycle—to help meet important development objectives.

Since its founding in 2005, the World Bicycle Relief of Chicago has done great work in helping displaced survivors after a natural disaster in Sri Lanka, allowing farmers to move crops in Zambia, and getting girls to school in Malawi.

I have even seen myself how a bicycle ambulance in rural Tanzania can change lives; and not long ago, my

staff saw the group's efforts in Kenya, where more than 25,000 sustainable, rugged bicycles have been provided.

Since 2019, I have worked through appropriations to push USAID to invest in bicycles, which help meet the needs in healthcare, education, women and girls' empowerment, and more. Part of this funding has included an in-depth assessment to see what is most useful and how to make the programs locally sustainable. They not only send bikes; they send parts and then train the repairmen. USAID has used these lessons and opportunities with increasing success thanks to the work of many groups, including that of the World Bicycle Relief of Chicago.

Today, I am introducing legislation in partnership with the Kenya bicycle world and U.S. House of Representatives' Representative EARL BLUMENAUER of Oregon. Our bill is going to codify these important efforts and formalize the creation of a mobility program within USAID's Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

COVID-19 has taught us that a global health crisis can easily turn into an economic crisis, a food crisis, a mobility crisis, and more. Sometimes the simplest things, like a bicycle, can help make incredible progress.

That is item No. 1.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4962

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bicycles for Rural African Transport Act".

SEC. 2. RURAL MOBILITY PROGRAM IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this section as "USAID") shall establish, within the Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, a rural mobility program (referred to in this section as the "Program") to carry out the purposes described in paragraph (2), including through grants made to eligible nongovernmental partner organizations. In making such grants, the Administrator shall give priority to organizations with demonstrated success conducting rural mobility programs in the region for such purposes.

(2) PURPOSE.—The Program shall focus on country-driven projects within sub-Saharan Africa that—

(A) promote rural communities' access to critical services and opportunities, including education, health care, and livelihood opportunities, through access to affordable, fit-for-purpose bicycles; and

(B) provide support to sustainably increase access to critical services, such as education, health care, and livelihood opportunities in rural areas, including through support for rural-based mechanics, access to spare parts, reduction of social and gender-based stigma, and community project management capacity.

(3) PARTNERSHIPS.—To the greatest extent practicable, the Program shall partner with

existing entities outside the United States that have successful models for providing access to affordable bicycles to achieve development objectives.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(A) \$3,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2023 and 2024;

(B) \$6,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 and 2026; and

(C) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and for each fiscal year thereafter.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) PRIOR PROJECTS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of USAID shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that, with respect to each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2022—

(A) describes the projects carried out by USAID that relate to any of the purposes described in subsection (a)(2);

(B) identifies the countries in which USAID embedded rural bicycle mobility into strategies, programs, and projects of USAID and describes the mechanisms by which rural bicycle mobility was so embedded;

(C) specifies the number of bicycles distributed through projects carried out by USAID; and

(D) assesses the outcomes for, and impacts on, participants in such projects and the efforts of USAID to disseminate lessons learned from such projects.

(2) CURRENT PROJECTS.—Not later than December 30, 2024, and each December 30 thereafter, the Administrator of USAID shall submit a report to the congressional committees referred to in paragraph (1) that—

(A) describes the projects carried out by USAID during the most recently concluded fiscal year; and

(B) includes information relating to the matters described in subparagraphs (B) through (D) of paragraph (1).

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 4968. A bill to create an Active Shooter Alert Communications Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Active Shooter Alert Act of 2022.

This legislation recognizes the need to protect the public during active shooter situations while our country experiences an unconscionable epidemic of mass shootings.

This legislation would establish a voluntary public safety alert system for use by law enforcement to notify individuals of active shooter situations occurring within their communities. It would also appoint an Active Shooter Alert Coordinator at the Department of Justice who would direct Federal training, technical support, and best practices efforts across the country.

Additionally, this legislation would establish an Advisory Panel to coordinate with FEMA, the Department of Transportation, and the FCC. The panel would develop guidance on how alerts should be sent, how they should be designed, and what language should be used.

Americans deserve to feel safe in their communities. The tragedies in Highland Park, Memphis, and Uvalde are reminders that we have to address the pressing issues surrounding mass shootings.

The House has already passed this bill with strong bipartisan support from 43 Republicans who recognized that political affiliation should never jeopardize our obligation to protect Americans from harm.

Public safety is paramount, and our country's law enforcement officers, first responders, and healthcare providers deserve every tool available as they carry out their work.

This bill is an important step to strengthen our public safety infrastructure, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Active Shooter Alert Act of 2022 as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 797—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING AZERBAIJANI FORCES' ILLEGAL AND UNPROVOKED ASSAULT ON ARMENIAN TERRITORY AND INSISTING UPON THE CESSATION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO AZERBAIJAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 797

Whereas on September 13, 2022, Azerbaijani forces mounted an illegal and unprovoked assault on Armenian territory, including the cities of Vardenis, Sotk, Artanish, Ishkhanasar, Goris, and Kapan;

Whereas by September 14, 2022, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan announced a preliminary death toll of more than 100 Armenians;

Whereas the Azerbaijani military fired artillery at Armenian villages along the border, forcing more than 2,750 civilians, including 370 children and 55 people with disabilities, to evacuate their homes and take shelter;

Whereas, according to Armenia's Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, the Azerbaijani attack damaged 192 residential buildings in Gegharkunik, Syunik, and Vayots Dzor Provinces;

Whereas, according to the Armenian Ombudsman, Azerbaijani shelling set fire to a forest in Jermuk, with artillery fire preventing Armenian firefighters from immediate access to the blaze;

Whereas according to Prime Minister Pashinyan, Azerbaijani forces illegally advanced into at least 10 square kilometers of Armenian territory;

Whereas on the evening of September 14, 2022, Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia, Armen Grigoryan, announced that a ceasefire took hold;

Whereas Azerbaijan's latest attack on Armenian territory and the Armenian people follows a long pattern of aggression, including during the 2020 Nagorno Karabakh War, when an attack by Azerbaijani forces ignited a conflict that killed more than 6,500 people

and displaced almost 100,000 ethnic Armenians;

Whereas Azerbaijan continues to hold at least 35 prisoners of war and 3 civilian prisoners from the Nagorno Karabakh War and Azerbaijan's recent attack on Armenia;

Whereas Azerbaijan's attack on Armenia, which was launched on September 13, 2022, is a flagrant violation of Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and a violation of international law;

Whereas section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5812 note) prohibits United States assistance to Azerbaijan "until the President determines, and so reports to Congress, that the Government of Azerbaijan is taking demonstrable steps to cease all blockades and other offensive uses of force against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh";

Whereas title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-115) allows the President to waive section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act under certain statutorily defined conditions, including if doing so "will not undermine or hamper ongoing efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement between Armenia or Azerbaijan or be used for any offensive purposes against Armenia";

Whereas upon exercising such waiver, the President must submit a report to appropriate congressional committees outlining—

(1) "the nature and quantity of all training and assistance provided to the Government of Azerbaijan pursuant to [the waiver];";

(2) "the status of the military balance between Azerbaijan and Armenia and the impact of United States assistance on that balance"; and

(3) "the status of negotiations for a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the impact of United States assistance on those negotiations";

Whereas on March 2, 2022 the Government Accountability Office released a report, which found that the Department of State and the Department of Defense failed to meet certain statutory reporting requirements to Congress, including the impact of proposed assistance on the military balance between Azerbaijan and Armenia;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office found that the Department of State and the Department of Defense did not document their consideration of waiver requirements from fiscal year 2014 through fiscal year 2020, including how the departments determined that assistance would not be used for offensive purposes against Armenia; and

Whereas despite agreeing with the Government Accountability Office's recommendations, the Department of State has not demonstrated how it will adequately report to Congress on statutorily required considerations for aid to Azerbaijan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Azerbaijan's illegal and unprovoked attack on Armenian territory;

(2) urges Azerbaijan to fully adhere to the ceasefire agreed to on September 14, 2022;

(3) demands that Azerbaijan respect the territorial integrity of Armenia;

(4) calls for the release of all Armenian prisoners of war and civilian prisoners held in Azerbaijan;

(5) insists that the Department of State meet all statutorily required reporting requirements for consideration of United States assistance to Azerbaijan;

(6) urges the Secretary of State to immediately halt all security assistance to Azerbaijan;

(7) urges the President to evaluate whether officials of the Government of Azerbaijan should be subject to sanctions under the

Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328) for human rights abuses against ethnic Armenians; and

(8) supports the robust provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh affected by Azerbaijan's war of aggression.

SENATE RESOLUTION 798—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25, 2022, AS "RAIL SAFETY WEEK" IN THE UNITED STATES AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RAIL SAFETY WEEK TO REDUCE RAIL-RELATED ACCIDENTS, FATALITIES, AND INJURIES

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas the first Rail Safety Week was held from September 24 through September 30, 2017, by the national education safety nonprofit Operation Lifesaver, the Department of Transportation, and other organizations;

Whereas Rail Safety Week was launched to raise awareness about the need for increased education on how to be safe around highway-rail grade crossings and railroad tracks and to highlight efforts to further reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities;

Whereas highway-rail grade crossing and trespassing accidents constituted approximately 94 percent of all rail-related fatalities during 2021;

Whereas, since 2005—

(1) the number of public highway-rail grade crossings has decreased by 10 percent; and

(2) the number of gates at such crossings has increased by 39 percent;

Whereas, in 2021, 47 percent of all highway-rail grade crossing collisions and 65 percent of all fatal highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred at gated highway-rail grade crossings;

Whereas preliminary Federal statistics indicate that 2,145 highway-grade crossing collisions occurred in the United States in 2021, resulting in 236 deaths and another 664 individuals injured;

Whereas many collisions between trains and motor vehicles or pedestrians could have been prevented by increased education, engineering, and enforcement;

Whereas Operation Lifesaver, the foremost public information and education program on rail safety, administers a public education program about grade-crossing safety and trespassing prevention;

Whereas, during Rail Safety Week, from September 19 through 25, 2022, and throughout the year, everyone is encouraged to take added caution as motorists or pedestrians approach tracks or trains;

Whereas the United States, Canada, and Mexico will concurrently observe Rail Safety Week; and

Whereas this important observance should lead to greater safety awareness and a reduction in highway-rail grade crossing collisions and other railroad incidents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of "Rail Safety Week";

(2) expresses strong support for—

(A) the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week; and

(B) efforts to reduce rail-related accidents, fatalities, and injuries; and